



HANFORD UPDATE

A bulletin on Hanford cleanup and compliance

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Hanford Budget forecasts continued decreases

The decreases in Hanford's FY 1995 budget and the projections that show continued decreases in the future send a no-nonsense message about the need to do more cleanup with fewer dollars. These budget impacts represent an unprecedented challenge to drive down all unnecessary spending while accelerating cleanup.

Public demand and the federal deficit also play a role. Nearly all the major political candidates were concerned about the national debt that was now some \$4 trillion.

As the Hanford budget soared, so did concerns about whether taxpayers were getting their money's worth. In the minds of many, the cleanup was nothing more than a paper-pushing exercise.

During the Tank Waste Remediation System negotiation in 1993, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State of Washington's Department of Ecology (Ecology) recognized that Hanford needed to change the way it did business to make the cleanup cost effective. In part, this led to a separate agreement in 1994 where United States Department of Energy (USDOE) committed to saving \$1 billion in cleanup costs over the next five years.

This historical context is important to understanding budget planning now underway. Though the budget request being worked on now are for FY 1997, there still remains unresolved budget questions for FY 1995 and 1996 that may impact the budget profile through FY 2001.

These budget impacts represent a challenge to drive down all unnecessary spending. Every activity, program and purchase is being scrutinized in light of accomplishing these objectives.

The next step will be to review the draft budget request with DOE-Headquarters, our regulators, the Hanford Advisory Board members and the Tribes to get their input on how the budget should be allocated.

Hanford Advisory Board questions Wagoner on USDOE's budget projections

During their March meeting in Seattle, the Hanford Advisory Board met with USDOE Richland Operations Manager John Wagoner and regulatory leaders from Ecology and EPA to discuss the impact of projected budget levels on Hanford cleanup.

Board chairperson Marilyn Reeves said Board members asked for Hanford Advisory Board subcommittees to look at concerns in two general areas: first, what do the reduced figures mean relative to cleanup progress at Hanford? Second, how do USDOE's priorities, as expressed in the budget, stack up against values put forward by the Future Site Uses Working Group (1992), the Tank Waste Task Force (1993) and the Hanford Advisory Board (since 1994)?

The Board members engaged in lengthy discussion following their dialogue with Wagoner. Several key issues were identified and were referred to various committees for more study. The 33-member Hanford Advisory Board represents a broad range of Hanford interest groups.

For more information, contact Max Power, Ecology (360) 407-7118.



Implementation Plan issued for the Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement

The USDOE released its Implementation Plan for the Draft Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement (HRA-EIS). The Plan reviews how USDOE selected future land-use alternatives for analysis in the HRA-EIS, and how they arrived at that decision based on public input.

Several public meetings and extensive input from the Hanford Future Site Uses Working Group contributed to the preparation of the Plan. The Plan, in turn, has helped the USDOE with its preparation of the Draft HRA-EIS. The USDOE will hold public hearings on the Draft HRA-EIS this spring, to obtain public input on the future land-use alternatives. These alternatives, suggested by the Future Site Uses Working Group, are based on three central land use themes: unrestricted, restricted, and exclusive future land uses. Comments on these alternatives will assist the USDOE in establishing future land-use objectives for the Hanford Site.

For more information, contact Thomas Ferns, USDOE, (509) 372-0649. Requests for copies of the Plan should be directed to: Mr. Thomas W. Ferns, Project Director, Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement P.O. Box 550, MSIN H4-83, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, Richland, WA 99352

Dose Reconstruction Project looking at special populations

The Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction project's Technical Steering Panel is entering the final phase of its work, calculating radiation doses for special populations. The Dose Reconstruction project goal is to estimate the radiation dose that individuals who lived at or near Hanford could have received as a result of emissions since 1944 from the Hanford Site.

Last year, representative dose estimates for typical individuals who lived in eastern Washington, northeastern Oregon and northwestern Idaho were released to the public. Current work is focusing on special populations that may have been affected, such as Native Americans, military personnel, construction workers at Hanford and migrant farm workers. The Technical Steering Panel's goal is to have individual dose estimates based on a detailed life history available by early 1996.

For more information, contact Greg Combs, Ecology 1-800-545-5581.

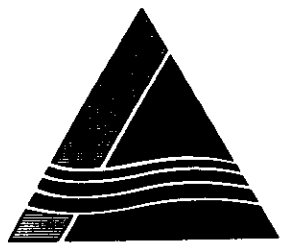
Cleanup takes a Major Step Forward

Hanford cleanup took a major step forward in February when construction started on the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF), the culmination of a regulatory process in which public involvement had a major influence on the final decision. The ERDF Record of Decision was signed on January 20, by the Tri-Party Agencies. The ERDF, located on the Hanford Site Central Plateau, is a disposal facility to be used for waste generated from cleanup of the Hanford Site.

Construction of the ERDF began in early February. Clearing and grubbing of the land included removing and transporting native grasses to re-vegetate the newly remediated Wahluke Slope Wildlife Recreation Area on the Hanford Site. Approximately 10,000 plants, including squirrel tail bottle brush, Indian rice grass, and needle and thread grass, were designated as transplant stock. The re-vegetation was a team effort that included the Environmental Restoration Contractor, USDOE Richland Operations Office, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

The ERDF is scheduled to be operational by September 1996.

For more information, contact Pam Innis, EPA (509) 376-4919.



Hanford Happenings

April 1995

Tri-Party Agreement

Cleanup is underway at Hanford, and the pace of work is picking up. The number of actions requiring public participation continues to grow. The three parties, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington State Department of Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, offer this monthly flier to help you keep track of scheduled meetings, comment periods and events, and the inevitable changes in schedules.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

DATE	PROGRAM	CONTACT
April 5	200 Area Treated Effluent Disposal Facility Draft Waste Water Discharge Permit (Project W-049H) public hearing. Ecology will be seeking public comment on the draft permit. Kennewick; Department of Ecology office; 1315 West 4th Avenue. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Joanne Chance (360) 407-7139
April 5	Native American working Groups of the Dose Reconstruction Project meeting. Lewiston, ID; Red Lion Inn. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Greg Combs (360) 407-7116
April 5 <i>Tentative</i>	Tritium Supply and Recycling Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement meeting. Las Vegas, NV. Agenda to be determined.	M. J. Byrne (202) 586-0481
April 5-6	Tritium Supply and Recycling Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement meeting. Washington, DC. Agenda and location to be determined.	M. J. Byrne (202) 586-0481
April 6	Pantex Environmental Impact Statement meeting. Richland-Tower Inn. Agenda to be determined.	R. Stone (509) 376-1890
April 6-7	Hanford Advisory Board meeting*. Richland; Best Western-Tower Inn. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Agenda to possibly include discussions on board procedures, workforce transition, Congressional Budget Request for 1997, Groundwater Protection Strategy, and Columbia River Impacts.	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
April 12	Tritium Supply and Recycling Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement meeting. Pocatello, ID and Oak Ridge, TN.	M. J. Byrne (202) 586-0481
April 13	Hanford Advisory Board Health, Safety, and Waste Management Committee meeting. Portland, Oregon. 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. <i>Chair: Dick Belsey.</i>	Paul Wilson (503) 245-1481
April 17-18	USDOE Environmental Management Advisory Board meeting. Washington, D.C.; Willard Hotel.	Kelly Rippeto (202) 586-0591
April 19-20	Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board. Full Board meeting. Las Vegas, NV; Holiday Inn-Crowne Plaza.	Paula Alford (703) 235-4473
April 25-25	USDOE's Environmental Cleanup: Coping with the Cost Squeeze. Arlington, VA; KeyBridge Marriott.	No Name (212) 512-2723
April 20	Northwest Interstate Compact Meeting. Seattle; Marriott, SeaTac. Agenda to be determined.	Joe Stohr (360) 407-7107
April 20 <i>Tentative</i>	Tritium Supply and Recycling Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement meeting. Amarillo, TX and N. Augusta, GA. Agenda and location to be determined.	M. J. Byrne (202) 586-0481
May 3	HAMMER Steering Committee Meeting. New Orleans. Agenda to be determined.	K. McGinnis (509) 376-9403
May 4	Hanford Advisory Board meeting*. Tri-Cities. Agenda to possibly include: Double Shell Tank final recommendations.	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663

May 30 <i>Tentative</i>	200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility (C-018) draft state waste discharge permit public hearing. Ecology will be seeking public comment on the draft state waste discharge permit. Kennewick, Department of Ecology, 1315 West 4th Avenue, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Melodie Selby (509) 736-3021
June 1-2	Hanford Advisory Board meeting*. Portland. Agenda to possibly include: Review of FY94 Accomplishments.	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
June 9	Health, Safety, and Waste Management Committee meeting. Agenda to be determined. <i>Chair: Dick Belsey.</i>	Paul Wilson (503) 245-1481
June <i>Tentative</i>	Draft Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement. USDOE public meetings. Richland, Portland, Seattle. Dates, times, and locations to be determined.	Sue Weissberg (509) 372-0188
July 6 <i>Tentative</i>	Hanford Advisory Board meeting*. Tri-Cities. Agenda to possibly include a presentation Technology Development issues.	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
August 3/4	Hanford Advisory Board meeting*. Seattle. Agenda to possibly include adoption of recommendations on Technology Development issues.	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
August 11	Health, Safety, and Waste Management Committee meeting. Agenda to be determined. <i>Chair: Dick Belsey.</i>	Paul Wilson (503) 245-1481
September 7	Hanford Advisory Board meeting*. Tri-Cities. Agenda to be determined.	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
October 5-6	Hanford Advisory Board meeting*. Spokane. Agenda to be determined.	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663
November 2	Hanford Advisory Board meeting*. Tri-Cities. Agenda to be determined.	Elaine Hallmark (503) 243-2663

****Members of the public are encouraged to attend Hanford Advisory Board meetings. All meetings are open to the public and time is available to give public comment.***

COMMENT PERIODS

DATE	PROGRAM	CONTACT
March 6-April 6	200 Area Treated Effluent Disposal Facility (Project W-049H) Draft State Wastewater Discharge Permit. Ecology is seeking public comment on the draft permit.	Joanne Chance (360) 407-7139
May/June <i>Tentative</i>	200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility (C-018) draft state wastewater discharge permit. Ecology will seek public comment and conduct a public hearing on the draft state wastewater discharge permit for the 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility.	Melodie Selby (509) 736-3021
May/June <i>Tentative</i>	400 Area. Ecology will seek public comment and conduct a public hearing on the draft permit for the 400 Area.	Ecology

Every effort has been made to list correct information, but dates, times, and locations for particular meetings may change. For more information, please call 1-800-321-2008 or any of the following Tri-Party Agreement agency public involvement contacts:

U.S. Department of Energy
Jon Yerxa at (509) 376-9628

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Dennis Faulk at (509) 376-8631

Washington State Department of Ecology
Laurie Davies at (360) 407-7113

If you have special accommodation needs or require this material in an alternative format, please contact Michelle Davis at (360) 407-7126 (Voice) or (360) 407-6206 (TDD).

The Tri-Party Agreement agencies are equal opportunity agencies and do not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, disability, age, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disabled veteran's status, Vietnam Era veteran's status, or sexual orientation.



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Minor modifications proposed for site-wide RCRA permit

The USDOE has sent Ecology some minor modifications to the Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit. These changes, submitted in January 1995, update information involving the 616 Nonradioactive Dangerous Waste Storage Facility, the Hanford Facility Contingency Plan, and the 305-B Storage Facility. The modifications do not substantially alter the permit, or reduce the facilities' capacity to protect human health and the environment.

Current plans call for these minor revisions to be incorporated into the permit in April along with the five proposed hazardous waste permit closure plans, which were presented January 17 for a 45-day public comment period. The draft minor modifications can be read and copied at the Hanford Information Repositories.

For more information, contact Joe Witczak, Ecology (360) 407-7132.

100 Area cleanup plans proposed

Over the last several months the Tri-Party Agencies have been working to develop proposed cleanup plans for the first three operable units in the 100 Area. These units are 100-BC-1, 100-DR-1 and 100-HR-1. The proposed cleanup plans will focus on approximately 30 radioactive liquid waste disposal sites such as cribs, trenches and retention basins. The solid waste burial grounds, septic tanks and other low priority waste sites associated with these areas will be covered in subsequent plans.

During discussions over the last several months the agencies have agreed on cleanup levels for these waste sites. The Washington State's Model Toxic Control Act (MTCA) will be used to generate chemical/metals cleanup levels. The agencies are considering the use of the proposed EPA and Nuclear Regulatory Commission standard of 15 millirem per year above background for the radioactive component cleanup standard. This equates to a 1 in 10,000 risk to those members of the public who receive the highest possible exposure. The goal of the cleanup is to remediate the waste sites so as not to preclude any future use due to Hanford contaminants.

The public involvement schedule for the first three plans is to begin with a 45-day public comment period in Mid-April. Public meetings will also be held to receive input.

For more information, contact Dennis Faulk, EPA (509) 376-8631.

State ready to take comment on two draft waste discharge permits

Public hearings are scheduled this spring to take comments on draft state waste discharge permits for two major Hanford wastewater treatment and disposal facilities.

A 32-day public comment period on the 200 Area Treated Effluent Disposal Facility (W-049) draft state waste discharge permit ends April 6. A public hearing will be held April 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Ecology's Kennewick office, 1315 W. 4th Ave. The permit would allow discharge to the soil of treated wastewater from seven facilities in Hanford's 200 Area.

Ecology plans to open a 32-day public comment period (May 1 through June 1) on the draft waste discharge permit for the 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility (C-018). A public hearing tentatively has been set for May 30 in Ecology's Kennewick office from 7 to 9 p.m. The levels of contaminants in the wastewater discharged from the Effluent Treatment Facility will meet regulatory discharge standards for all contaminants except tritium. The treated effluent would be discharged to the soil.

For more information, contact Joanne Chance, Ecology, on 200 Area Treated Effluent Disposal Facility (W-049) at (360) 407-7139; or Melodie Selby, Ecology, on Effluent Treatment Facility (C-018) at (509) 736-3021.

Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment

As outlined in the Tri-Party Agreement milestones signed in January 1994, the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment was agreed on as a way to learn how Hanford contaminants affected the Hanford Reach and downstream Columbia River. Currently under review is a draft document identifying contaminants which should be studied. Preparations also are underway on a second document that will identify plants and animals which would best exhibit effects of the contaminants.

To ease long-standing stakeholder concerns regarding USDOE's selection of Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories as the contractor for the assessment, USDOE has agreed to create an independent technical review group. Nominations for this group are currently being solicited and are due by April 14.

Over the last several months USDOE has continued forward with the production of draft documents as part of the assessment process. The project completion date is expected by June 1995.

For more information, contact Mike Thompson, USDOE (509) 373-0750.

Mike Wilson named to lead Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program

Mike Wilson replaced Dru Butler as manager of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program February 20. Wilson has worked at Ecology since 1976 with stints in several programs at the Central and Southwest regional offices and at headquarters. Most recently, he headed the Solid Waste Services Program. Wilson told Nuclear Waste Program staff he wants, "to get out and get some things done. We need some results at Hanford. It will be to everyone's advantage if we show concrete results out there."

Butler resigned as program manager to accept an executive position with Scientific Ecology Group, a subsidiary of Westinghouse Electric Corp.



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The Hanford Update
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